2019 Foster Youth Education Summit

Successful School Strategies

for Foster Youth

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Overview

- Foster Youth District Strategies
- Aligning with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Strategies and Brainstorming Going Forward
- Next Steps

CSBA – Not Invisible

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tII8XbQp56A

Unique Needs

With your neighbor, what are some of the unique needs that make developing specialized campus based programs essential for the success of foster youth – other vulnerable populations?

Know Your Data

Data

- What data is available?
- DataQuest, Dashboard, Local
- Review the data – achievement, graduation and college/career readiness, attendance, discipline, mobility
- What does the data show for foster youth/vulnerable youth?

Dataquest
California Subgroups

California DataQuest		GRADUATION	SUSPENSION	EXPULSION	CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM
2017-2018	All	83.00%	3.50%	0.08%	11.10%
	Foster Youth	50.80%	15.20%	0.37%	26.20%
	Homeless	68.90%	5.60%	0.16%	23.10%
	Students w/Dis	66.30%	6.80%	0.07%	18.40%
	English Learners	67.10%	3.00%	0.13%	11.10%
	Soc/Eco/Dis	79.60%	4.40%	0.11%	13.90%

https://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/

Data (Continued)

- Were any of the schools in Differentiated Assistance for foster youth or were vulnerable youth underperforming compared to others?

- Do the LCAP/School goals align with the Data?

- What data is missing?

- What are some other interventions that you can address to improve outcomes for foster youth?
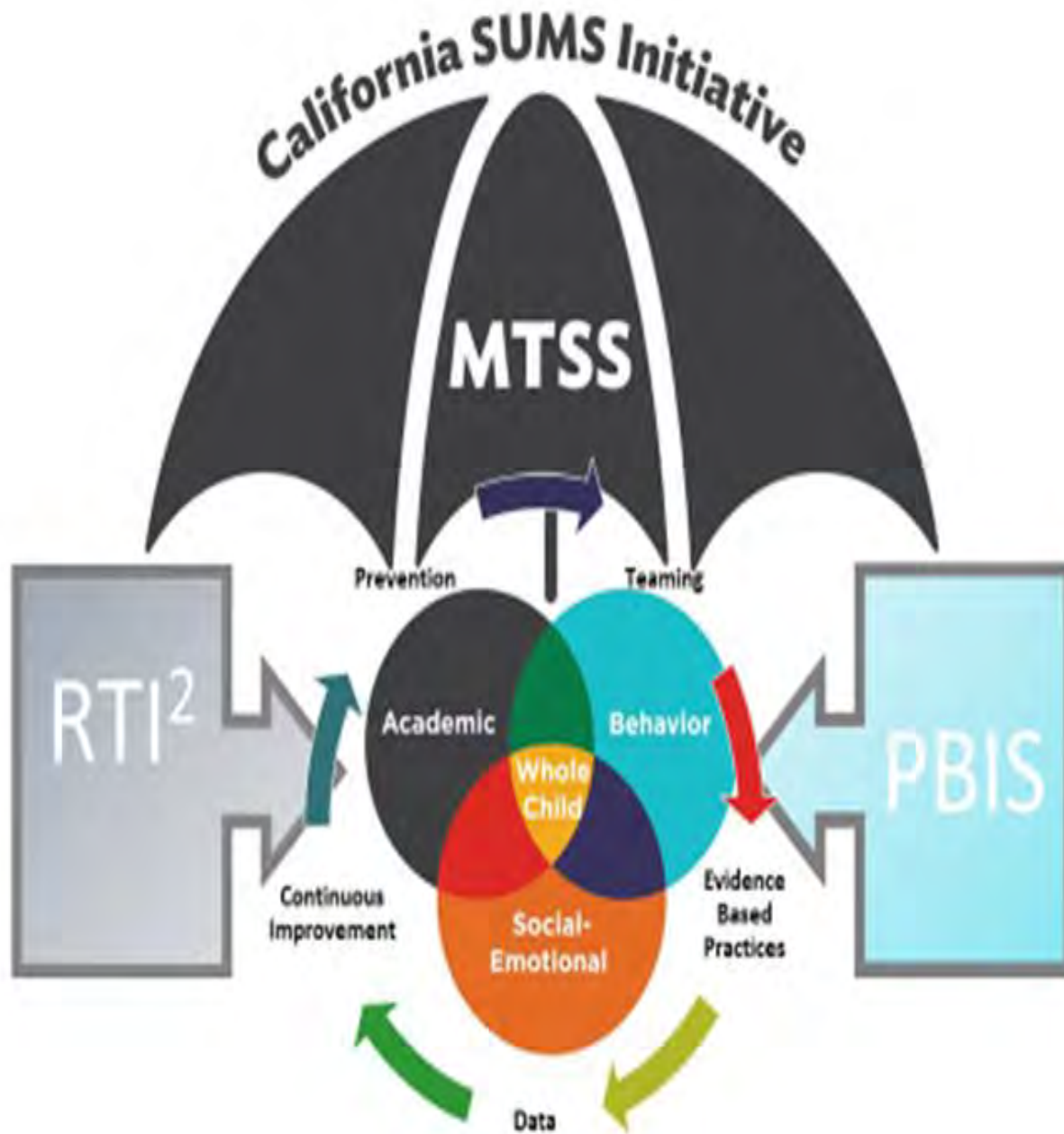
OCIFYED

- Orange County Integrated Foster Youth Education Database – testing Spring 2019

- Foster Youth Page
- Team and Educational Rights Information
- Notes Section
- Action Plan Section
- Reports to pull data

Multi- Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

- How will this align with MTSS efforts in your districts?

- What can be done differently to support your foster youth and other vulnerable youth?

- What are areas that are needed to provide support on your campus or in your district?

11

MTSS Alignment

- Provide comprehensive behavioral and socio-emotional supports
- Integrated Educational Framework
  - Identify who has access – all means all☺
  - Strong and Positive School Culture
    - Foster collaborative relationships
- Family and Community Engagement
  - Engagement
  - Communication
- Trusting Community Partnerships
  - Engagement
  - Mutual interests and goals

Strategies to Support Foster Youth

STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT FOSTER YOUTH

SCHOOL COMMUNITY
Ensure someone meets with and orients each foster youth for success.
Explore additional services for youth to experience opportunities including extracurricular activities.

TEAMING
Allow for strong team communication and coordination of services between the caregiver, social worker/probation officer, education rights holder, mental health provider, school and student.
Invite team members to school meetings and communicate successes as well as challenges.

RELATIONSHIP
Develop a mentoring program and foster youth clubs on campus.
Support and promote positive relationships between youth, peers, and staff.

ACCESS
Develop a process so the student/caregiver is taking advantage and aware of school supports.
Ensure that the student has space to complete homework and access to internet away from school.

TRAUMA INFORMED
Implement practices that enhance school climate and allow youth to feel safe at school.
Provide staff development on understanding the impact of trauma on the youth's behavior, development, learning, and relationships.

EMPOWERMENT
Communicate and advocate to ensure the school/district is supporting the youth.
Ensure educational rights holder can access academic and behavioral supports for the student.

GRADUATION
Develop a system to ensure each foster youth has a graduation, college and/or career transition plan.
Provide support to help foster youth complete post-secondary resources: FAFSA, California College Promise Grant, Chafee Grant, and scholarships.

ISSUE SPOTTING
Have quarterly check-ins for issue spotting and communication.
Connect youth to early intervention services discovered from issue spotting.

ENGAGE YOUTH VOICE
Allow time and space for students to communicate their needs at school.
Ensure youth's voice is heard during meetings and follow-up with youth after meetings.

STAKEHOLDER

14

School Community

- Ensure someone meets with and orients each foster youth for success.
  - Counselor, Foster Youth Liaison, Administrator, who else?

- Explore additional services for youth to experience opportunities including extracurricular activities.
  - Have the student write a one page introduction. What are their strengths, interests, goals?

Teaching

- Allow for strong team communication and coordination of services between the caregiver, social worker/probation officer, education rights holder, mental health provider, school and student.
  - Who can lead teaming efforts at school site?

- Invite team members to school meetings and communicate successes as well as challenges.
  - If team member cannot be present, how is their perspective being included?

Relationship

- Develop a mentoring program and foster youth clubs on campus.

  – How can we help youth feel connected to others?

- Support and promote positive relationships between youth, peers, and staff

  – Research shows that One Caring Adult can make all of the difference.

Access

- Develop a process so the student/caregiver is taking advantage and aware of school supports.
  - MTSS, Foster Youth Liaison, McKinley-Vento, Special Education

- Ensure that the student has space to complete homework and access to internet away from school.
  - What barriers at home is the school not aware of?

Trauma Informed

- Implement practices that enhance school climate and allow youth to feel safe at school.
    - How can we maximize the students sense of safety?

- Provide staff development on understanding the impact of trauma on the youth's behavior, development, learning, and relationships.
    - Who needs to be trained? Who has capacity to lead?

Empowerment

- Communicate and advocate to ensure the school/district is supporting the youth.
  - Is the youth participating in any tier 2 or 3 interventions?

- Ensure educational rights holder can access academic and behavioral supports for the student.
  - Access to academic counselor, online parent portal, school and district resources.

Graduation

- Develop a system to ensure each foster youth has a graduation, college and/or career transition plan.
  - Is there already a system in place that can be enhanced?

- Provide support to help foster youth complete post-secondary resources: FAFSA, California College Promise Grant, Chafee Grant, and scholarships.
  - Resource packet

Issue Spotting

- Have quarterly check-ins for issue spotting and communication.
  - Are there inconsistencies with behavior or academic performance?

- Connect youth to early intervention services discovered from issue spotting.
  - Tiers of support, check in, check out, social emotional group, individual counseling, ect.

Engage Youth Voice and Stakeholder

- Allow time and space for students to communicate their needs at school.

- Ensure youth's voice is herd during meetings and follow-up with youth after meetings.

- Encourage foster youth participation on LCAP planning teams and stakeholder groups.

- Promote discussions supporting foster youth to ensure the system is supporting their unique needs.

Small Group Activity

1. Which vulnerable population are you targeting?
2. What strategies are you implementing?
3. What are some things you can put into place this year?
   a) Next year?
4. What areas do you need support in?

   a) Meetings?
   b) Trainings?

Summarize and Share Next Steps

Working together, we *can* turn the corner and improve the educational outcomes for our foster youth and other vulnerable youth!

Thank you!

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